

HEALTH  
EVIDENCE  
27

# Borough of Thetford



## ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

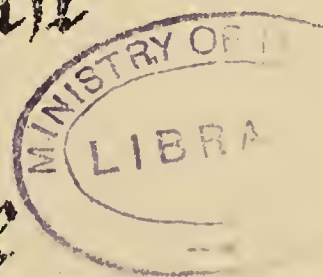
together with the

report of the

Sanitary Inspector

for the year

1953



STAFF:

Medical Officer of Health  
ROBERT N.C. McCURDY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector  
R.C.R. ROBINSON, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.

COMMITTEES concerned with matters of PUBLIC HEALTH.

Public Health, Highways and Town Planning Committee.  
Waterworks Committee.  
Parks and Pleasure Grounds Committee.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area in acres .....	7,096
Population (estimated at mid-year by Registrar General)	4,550
Number of inhabited houses .....	1,488
Rateable Value .....	£24,776
Product of 1d. Rate .....	£94

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year ended December 31st, 1953.  
To the Thetford Borough Council.

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Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1953.

A number of favourable trends in vital statistics occurred during 1953. Particularly striking was the large increase in the birthrate, this is at least partially due, however, to the large number of young temporary residents in the area. The deathrate on the other hand remains high.

Another favourable feature in 1953, was the complete absence of deaths from, and notifications of, tuberculosis. This must at least to some extent be due to the successful visit of the Mass Radiography Unit the previous year. Deaths from motor vehicle and other accidents were also reduced.

An epidemic of measles occurred in the early part of the year, and it was followed by one of scarlet fever.

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949. Regulation 20.

No action was taken during the year under this regulation.

Food Poisoning Outbreaks.

No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

National Assistance Act, 1948.

Section 47. "Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention."

In my Annual Report last year I said: "I can see no justification for trying to fit the elderly against their will into new and unfamiliar, albeit more hygienic, surroundings even if, which is doubtful, their lives might be prolonged a little thereby."

It is clear that this question needs to be discussed in rather more detail. It does not appear to be fully appreciated that this legislation authorises the forcible removal from their homes of old people in full possession of their mental faculties.

Under Part III of the National Health Service Act, 1946, certain duties which have a bearing on old people are laid upon Local Health Authorities. They are as follows:-

"It shall be the duty of every local health authority to make provision in their area for the visiting of persons in their homes by ..... health visitors, for the purpose of giving advice as to the care of ..... persons suffering from illness....."

"It shall be the duty of every local health authority to make provision in their area ..... for securing the attendance of nurses on persons who require nursing in their own homes."



In addition, "A local health authority may make such arrangements as the Minister may approve for providing domestic help for households where such help is required owing to the presence of any person who is ill ..... (or) aged ....."

It should not be necessary to add that the kindness of neighbours and relatives should also play a part in helping elderly people, but simple virtues of this kind are not encouraged in the Welfare State with its emphasis on rights rather than duties.

However a loop-hole was provided, so that if the plan provided by the National Health Service Act did not fit the individual, the individual could, under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, be forced to fit the plan.

It is also important to consider the reasons given for wishing to remove elderly persons from their homes.

There is the complaint that she "is now becoming a nuisance to adjoining tenants". It is always hard to define a nuisance, but it would need to be a very serious nuisance indeed to justify depriving the offender of her liberty. In this case the old lady had been known to empty her chamber down the gully in the common yard at the back of her house.

A community which tolerates innumerable pail closets does not seem to be very concerned about sanitation.

"There is a fear that she may cause an outbreak of fire." This is one of the commonest complaints. It may be a cause of genuine alarm to the other dwellers in a row of cottages, but again I cannot see that it justifies the forcible removal of an old person from their home.

A community which lets off the drunken motorist with a small fine does not seem to be unduly worried about safety, and a person with advanced tuberculosis is allowed to refuse treatment and live and work amongst other unsuspecting people. In the latter case I was informed that "because the person concerned is able but unwilling to devote to herself proper care and attention, Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, cannot apply." It is curious that inability to devote proper care and attention to oneself should be considered more blameworthy than unwillingness to do so.

The anxiety may be for the old persons themselves: "It is a shame they should be living as they are." To me it would be a far greater shame to ignore their wishes. Or: "being blind I fear for her safety ....." I pointed out last year that a blind person is safest in familiar surroundings.

Sometimes it is a relative who expresses these fears: "I never have peace of mind about her and always fear that something will happen to her!" This argument, although understandable enough, is often rather a selfish one. The relatives are more anxious to be spared anxiety than to help the old person live in the way they want to live. Carried a stage further, one would have to confine all elderly persons to bed because of the increased risk they run of being involved in road accidents or falling downstairs.

"The Home Help declined to work there further owing to the insanitary conditions." This reason brings one to the fundamental question. Has the community any right to force old people out of their homes because it is administratively inconvenient to look after them where they are?

An equally important question is raised by another reason which has been given: "If it is left too long it is probable they will die when removed .... but if action is taken in good time ..... the person concerned, after being cleaned up and given the necessary treatment, can settle down to a reasonably happy and comfortable existence."



## National Assistance Act, 1948 (Cont'd).

The question is this. What right have we to impose upon people who are in their right minds, not seriously endangering others and neither acutely ill and potentially curable nor actually bedridden, a way of living which we happen to think is best?

These old people are not often very eloquent, but this is how one old man put it to me; "I hope you won't be offended, but I think old people don't have so long to live when they go to hospitals ..... I don't suppose I should last long once I took to my bed, it keeps me going to mess about looking after things." This individual was described to me as being "in a filthy state" and "very obstinate", when he did finally have to take to his bed, friends and relatives rallied round and he died well cared for, in his own home, as he had wished it to be.

The very fact that compulsory powers exist tends to lessen one's endeavours to find a less drastic solution, but the problem is too big not to make the attempt. With the proportion of elderly people in the population increasing rapidly it will get bigger.

In the annual report of the joint committee of the Order of St. John and the British Red Cross last year, it is stated that: "One of the great problems still facing the nursing section of the joint committee is that of the old person living alone in her small flat and becoming increasingly unfit to look after herself, but who would be heartbroken to leave her known surroundings. Often the best appointed home is a poor substitute for a "niche of one's own" and the disruption brought about by a change is frequently detrimental to health."

In the report of a survey in Oxfordshire of elderly people who live alone: "It is suggested that the local authority, through its health visitors, should supervise all old people living alone who are over 70; the health visitor should also supervise old couples when both are frail; there should be an extension of the cheap milk scheme to all over 70; and all old people should be able, as of right, to claim a substantial supplementary allowance of coal."

In a village in Kent of less than 500 inhabitants "16 flats have been built by a housing association" to house "old people, who, all with close local associations, have their own small, carefully planned flats near their friends, and handy to the district nurse in case of need."

Mr. MacLeod, Minister of Health, has said: "No old person - no patient of any age - ought ever to be removed from his own home to a hospital or institution solely for lack of such care as a home help can give. Here is a vast field for voluntary effort and a great opportunity for the local authority to act as rallying points for that effort."

At best this legislation is a survival of the Poor Law attitude that indigence is a crime. At worst it is well on the road to dictatorship, for if the inconvenient old people are to be removed from their homes, why not also the politically inconvenient, and why stop at removal?

## Smoking and Lung Cancer.

On the 12th February, 1954, the Minister of Health announced that: "it must be regarded as established that there is a relationship between smoking and cancer of the lung."

He went on to say that: "Though there is a strong presumption that the relationship is causal, there is evidence that the relationship is not a simple one, since the evidence in support of the presence in tobacco smoke of a carcinogenic agent causing cancer of the lung is not yet certain." He is reported to have said that: "He considered the time had not yet come when the Ministry should issue public warnings against smoking, but that it is desirable that young people should be warned of the risks apparently attendant on excessive smoking."



## Smoking and Lung Cancer (Cont'd).

One's reactions to this announcement seem to depend upon whether one is a smoker or not.

To a non-smoker it was an astonishing statement. It was rather as if the Chairman of the Council, who happened to be the principal shareholder in the local waterworks, were to have said: "We now know that the increasingly large number of deaths from poisoning each year are associated with the local water supply. We do not propose to take any steps to protect the public, however, since the nature of the substance present in the local water supply which is contributing to these deaths is unknown"

Cancer of the lung killed 14,218 persons in England and Wales in 1952. The total has been rising year by year and shows no sign of decreasing. In 1953, only 5,070 people by comparison were killed on the roads, although this was more than in 1952. In 1952 only 9,335 people died of tuberculosis, the mortality from which is declining.

Figures from a number of hospitals throughout the country, suggest that the risk of developing lung cancer "may be approximately 50 times as great among those who smoke 25 or more cigarettes a day as among non-smokers," and that the risk of developing the disease for smokers as a whole is about 9 times as great as it is for non-smokers. From the latter figure it has been calculated that more than 10,000 deaths from lung cancer each year are probably attributable to tobacco.

It is true that "deaths from lung cancer have been consistently higher in urban areas than in rural areas," although "the rates of increase of mortality have been closely similar in both types of area". "No common occupations, as, for example, motor-driving or building, have ever been incriminated as being responsible for above-average incidence," (with the exception of working in the gas industry). There would seem to be, therefore, "some general factor common to all town dwellers" such as "the pollution of the atmosphere caused by domestic and industrial smoke" which is responsible for their increased liability to lung cancer.

But "there remains the obstinate fact that pollution from domestic smoke has become obviously less while the incidence of the disease has increased. It may be that the factor associated with urbanisation is particularly effective when accompanied by an agent in tobacco smoke". If this should be proved, which is easier, to give up using tobacco or to give up using coal?

Exactly one hundred years ago cholera was raging in London. The cause of cholera was not known, but it was proved that its spread was associated with drinking water. This knowledge was not fully accepted for some years, but it was nevertheless used to control the last major cholera epidemic in Britain in 1866, seventeen years before the bacteria which causes cholera was discovered.

It would be pathetic if history were to be repeated and 22 years were to elapse "before steps can be taken to halt the rapid increase in the mortality from bronchial carcinoma and to turn it into an even more dramatic decline," just because the actual substance causing lung cancer is unknown.

"Few now doubt that abolition of the cigarette, or abstinence from its use, would be the most beneficent single step in cancer prevention available to us to-day." (British Medical Journal, December 19th, 1953).

MEDICAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.

					<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Live births	...	...	...	...	38	56	94
Stillbirths	...	...	...	...	2	0	2

POPULATION AT MID-YEAR, BIRTHS, BIRTHRATE, STILLBIRTHS, STILLBIRTH RATES, DURING THE PAST FIVE YEARS.

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Population ... ..	4,388	4,385	4,456	4,555	4,550
Births (total) ... ..	69	72	80	65	94
Birthrate per 1,000 of population ... ..	15.7	16.4	17.9	14.3	20.7
Stillbirths ... ..	0	0	2	1	2
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 of population ... ..	0	0	0.45	0.22	0.44
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total births . ...	0	0	24.4	15.2	20.8

DEATHS.

					<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
All ages	...	...	...	...	40	27	67
Infants under 1 year	...	...	...	...	1	1	2

CAUSES OF DEATH OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR.

<u>Cause.</u>					<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Congenital malformation	...	...	...	...	1	0	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	0	1	1

POPULATION AT MID-YEAR, DEATHS, DEATHRATE, INFANT DEATHS AND INFANT MORTALITY RATE, DURING THE PAST FIVE YEARS.

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Population ... ..	4,388	4,385	4,456	4,555	4,550
Deaths ... ..	62	54	62	67	67
Deathrate per 1,000 of Population ...	14.2	12.3	13.9	14.7	14.8
Infant Deaths ... ..	4	0	1	3	2
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births ...	58.0	0	12.5	46.1	21.3



DEATHS FROM CERTAIN SELECTED CAUSES DURING THE PAST FIVE YEARS.

Cause.	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Tuberculosis ... ..	1	3	1	1	2
Bronchitis and Pneumonia ...	2	2	3	4	3
Other notifiable infectious diseases ... ..	0	0	0	0	0
Motor vehicle and other accidents .. ...	2	1	5	5	1
Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion .. ...	0	0	0	0	0
Cancer ... ..	12	2	2	13	13

DEATHS ACCORDING TO AGES (compiled from returns submitted by the District Registrar).

Age Group	Male.	Female.	Total.
Under 1 year ... ..	1	1	2
1 and under 5 ... ..	0	0	0
5 " " 10 ... ..	0	0	0
10 " " 20 ... ..	1	0	1
20 " " 30 ... ..	1	0	1
30 " " 40 ... ..	1	0	1
40 " " 50 ... ..	1	1	2
50 " " 60 ... ..	2	2	4
60 " " 70 ... ..	7	3	10
70 " " 80 ... ..	13	13	26
80 " " 90 ... ..	12	7	19
90 and over ... ..	1	0	1
Total	40	27	67

CAUSES OF DEATH AT AGES ABOVE 1 YEAR AND BELOW 50.

Age Group.	Sex.	Cause.
10 to 20	Male	Reticulosis.
20 to 30	Male	Pneumonia.
30 to 40	Male	Suicide.
40 to 50	Male Female	Cerebral haemorrhage. Carcinoma.



DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES (Registrar General's Short List).

List No.	Cause	Male	Female	Total
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	0	0	0
2	Tuberculosis, other	0	0	0
3	Syphilitic disease	1	0	1
4	Diphtheria	0	0	0
5	Whooping Cough	0	0	0
6	Meningococcal infections	0	0	0
7	Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
8	Measles	0	0	0
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	0	0	0
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	1	2
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	0	0	0
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	1	1
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0	0	0
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	5	5	10
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	0	0	0
16	Diabetes	0	0	0
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	10	8	18
18	Coronary disease, angina	5	2	7
19	Hypertension with heart disease	2	3	5
20	Other heart disease	11	5	16
21	Other circulatory disease	0	1	1
22	Influenza	0	0	0
23	Pneumonia	1	1	2
24	Bronchitis	1	0	1
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	0	0	0
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	0	0	0
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	0	0	0
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	0	0	0
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	0	0	0
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0	0
31	Congenital malformations	1	0	1
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	0	0	0
33	Motor vehicle accidents	0	0	0
34	All other accidents	1	0	1
35	Suicide	1	0	1
36	Homicide and operations of war	0	0	0
	All causes	40	27	67

THE FOLLOWING TABLE COMPARES BIRTHRATES, DEATHRATES, ETC., OF THIS DISTRICT WITH THOSE OF ENGLAND AND WALES AND OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF NORFOLK IN 1953.

	England and Wales.	Norfolk.	District.
Birthrate ... ..	15.5	15.5	20.7
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 of population	0.35	0.33	0.44
Deathrate ... ..	11.4	11.7	14.8
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births ...	26.8	25.9	21.3
Tuberculosis deathrate per 1,000 population . ...	0.20	0.07	0.0
Tuberculosis case rate per 1,000 population . ...	----	0.59	0.0

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE LAST FIVE YEARS.

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Tuberculosis, all sites ...	6	11	7	6	0
Cerebro-spinal fever ...	0	0	1	1	0
Scarlet fever .. ...	1	2	0	1	23
Whooping cough . ...	16	68	52	2	5
Erysipelas ... ..	2	2	2	0	1
Ophthalmia neonatorum ...	0	0	1	0	0
Dysentery ... ..	0	2	3	0	0
Measles ... ..	3	150	46	13	144
Poliomyelitis .. ...	0	4	0	0	1
Encephalitis .. ...	0	0	1	0	0
Pneumonia ... ..	22	6	18	9	10
Puerperal pyrexia ... ..	0	1	0	0	0
Food poisoning . ...	1	0	2	1	0
Infectious jaundice .. ...	3	5	1	1	0



INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED IN 1953, BY AGES.

Disease	Under 1 yr.	1-5	5-10	10-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	Over 65	Total,
Scarlet Fever ...	0	6	15	1	0	1	0	0	23
Whooping cough ...	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	5
Erysipelas ...	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Measles ... ..	4	57	80	2	0	1	0	0	144
Poliomyelitis ...	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Pneumonia . ...	2	1	0	1	0	0	2	4	10

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED IN 1953, BY MONTH OF NOTIFICATION.

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May.	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total.
Scarlet fever	1	0	0	0	0	2	13	7	0	0	0	0	23
Whooping cough	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	3	0	5
Erysipelas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Measles	5	1	66	71	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	144
Poliomyelitis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Pneumonia	2	2	1	3	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	10

THE FOLLOWING TABLE SHOWS THE NUMBER OF CASES ON THE TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1953, COMPARED WITH 31ST DECEMBER, 1952.

	Respiratory			Non-respiratory			Grand Total
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
31.12.52	9	12	21	5	6	11	32
31.12.53	10	14	24	4	3	7	31

I should like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, and my colleagues on the staff, for their continued support and help during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

ROBERT N. C. McCURDY,

Medical Officer of Health.

## SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

for the year 1953.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

#### WATER SUPPLY.

The public supply is derived from a deep well into chalk within the district boundary. The supply has remained satisfactory both in quality and quantity throughout the year. Approximately 160,000 gallons of water were pumped per day of which 50,000 gallons per day were used for industrial purposes giving an average domestic consumption per head per day of 24.5 gallons.

Water samples were taken at regular intervals throughout the year and submitted to the Public Analyst for both Chemical and Bacteriological examination. Copies of the Chemical Analysis Reports are given as an appendix.

In addition to the above, twelve samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service for Bacteriological examination only and the results showed that the water supply to the town was bacteriologically of a highly satisfactory standard.

Practically all the houses within the district have a piped water supply, either direct into the house or to within the curtilage of the house.

The undermentioned extensions to the water main were laid during the year:-

- (i) Approximately 244 yards of 5 inch main off the existing main in Bury Road to serve Council houses built in Queensway.
- (ii) Approximately 295 yards of 3 inch main from the new 5 inch main in Queensway to serve Council houses built along Bury Road Service Road.
- (iii) Approximately 330 yards of 3 inch main from the new 5 inch main in Queensway to serve Council property built in Hillary Road.

#### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

During the year under review, work proceeded with the connection to the sewer of all those properties within the re-connection scheme under the main contract i.e. properties having cesspools from which there existed an overflow through filters to a surface water sewer. 99 such re-connections were effected.

In addition to the above, 22 properties having cesspools only, and 41 properties with vaults or pails provided as sanitary accommodation, were connected and/or converted and connected to the new sewer by the owners, who had to bear the full cost of the works themselves.

The survey of closet accommodation and drainage to the 149 properties in the Closet Conversion Scheme, St. Nicholas Street Area was completed. On a resolution passed by the Council the work of connecting these properties to the sewer was deferred pending ascertainment of the amount of grant to be paid by the Government towards the final cost of the Main Sewerage Scheme. It is to be hoped that these closet conversions will be carried out at an early date, and that sufficient assistance will be forthcoming having regard to the very heavy burden falling on the Council in constructing and maintaining the new sewerage scheme.



### Closet Accommodation.

The changes during the year were as follows:-

- (i) Addition of 71 water closets for new houses,
- (ii) Conversion of 31 pails to water closets,
- (iii) Conversion of 10 vaults to water closets,
- (iv) 4 vaults changed to pail closets.

These alterations now give totals of 720 water closets, 593 pails and 239 vaults within the Borough.

### Conservancy.

A weekly night soil collection and disposal has been carried out as in previous years from every premise having a pail closet. Means of disposal was to farm land and/or to small pits on a site owned by the Council outside the town.

Vaults and cesspools were emptied by contract; disposal as above. The number of vaults and cesspools emptied in this way was as follows:-

Cesspools	...	...	...	115
Vaults	...	...	...	84

### REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The collection of refuse is carried out on a weekly basis and covers the whole district except for approximately 12 properties which, because of their extreme isolation from the collection routes, cannot be accommodated. The collection is direct from the houses and where possible rear collections are made. The type of vehicle used is a side loading, rear tipping, 7 cubic yard Fordson, manned by a Driver-loader and 3 loaders.

Provision is made for the collection of Trade Refuse at a fixed quarterly charge which varies with the number of bins collected from each premise.

The means of disposal of refuse is by semi-controlled layer tipping at a disused chalk pit outside the built up area of the town. One member of the vehicle crew carries out tip maintenance on  $2\frac{1}{2}$  days in every week.

Regular inspections of the tip were made and periodic treatments were carried out by the rodent operator to destroy rats.

Salvage collected during the year amounted to:-

Mixed waste	...	...	...	...	...	2 tons 15 cwt.
Cardboard	...	...	...	...	...	1 ton.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA,

The following table summarises the inspections made during the year by your Sanitary Inspector :-

Description.	Inspections.	Informal notices.	No. abated.
Drainage of Premises ... ..	228	36	34
Survey of house drainage for connection to new sewer ...	149	37 re provision of new closet accommodation.	37
General Nuisances ... ..	212	113	104
Housing Defects ... ..	114	32	30
Infectious Diseases ... ..	24	3 disinfections.	
Rats and Mice ... ..	See Section "Damage by Pests Act, 1949".		
Dangerous Structures ... ..	3	3	3
Verminous and filthy premises	29	4 3 Formal notices. 8 disinfestations.	4 3
Housing Investigations ...	38	-	-
Factories .. ...	142	21	20
Bakehouses . ... ..	23	2	2
Butchers Shops ... ..	38	5	5
Food Shops and Premises ...	111	10	10
Restaurants and Cafes .. ...	43	6	6
Fried Fish Shops . ... ..	19	2	2
Ice-Cream Premises ,,, ...	54	2	2
Dairies ... ..	12	-	-
Market Stalls ... ..	77	2	2
Public Houses ... ..	18	4	4
Marine Store Dealers ... ..	12	-	-

HOUSING.

During the year under review a large number of houses have been dealt with and requests for repairs by informal notices have occasioned a satisfactory response. Three houses were found to be unfit for human habitation and incapable of repair at reasonable expense and were demolished as a result of formal procedure under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936.

A number of complaints of alleged overcrowding have been dealt with and the results of consequent investigations have been forwarded to the Estates Officer.



## HOUSING (Cont'd).

The Estates Officer reports that by the end of the year the undermentioned houses have been built and occupied on the Council Estate:-

Council Houses	...	...	...	...	52
do Bungalows	..	...	...	...	4
do Flats	...	...	...	...	6
do Shops/Flats	...	...	...	...	2

In addition to the above, 7 Private Houses were erected and occupied during the year.

## PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

The Council employ one man on a part-time basis for the destruction of rats and mice.

The undermentioned inspections and course of treatments have been carried out in accordance with the provisions of the above Act which states that - "It will be the duty of every Local Authority to take such steps as may be necessary to secure as far as is practicable that their district is kept free from rats and mice".

	Type of Property.				
	Local Authority	Dwelling House	Agricultural.	All other (including business premises)	Total.
Total number of properties in Local Authority's District.	20	1483	19	301	1823
Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during the 15 months ended 31st March, 1954 as a result of (a) notification (b) survey under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, (c) otherwise e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose.	(a)				
	-	44	-	12	56
	(b)				
	20	127	8	34	189
Number of properties inspected (see Section II) which were found to be infested by rats.	(c)				
	-	612	-	117	729
Number of properties inspected (see Section II) which were found to be seriously infested by mice.	Major 1	-	-	1	2
	Minor 9	92	2	11	114
Number of infested properties (see Sections III and IV) treated by the Local Authority.	-	-	-	4	4
Number of notices served under Section 4:					
(1) Treatment	10	92	1	15	128
(2) Structural Works (i.e. Proofing)	-	-	-	1	1
	-	2	-	4	6
Maintenance treatment for rats in sewers.	The new sewers in the gravity area of the town were test baited. No takes of prebait were observed over a period of 3 days.				

Note: The above figures in each case relate to the number of properties inspected and not to the number of inspections, infestations or treatments at each property.

## FOOD INSPECTION.

### (i) Milk Supply.

Milk Distribution has been satisfactory and the two dairies situate in the district have maintained a high standard of cleanliness. Regular inspections of all vehicles used in the area for the distribution of milk have been made to ensure that cleanliness was observed by personnel to prevent contamination of milk in transit.

### (ii) Meat and Other Foods.

A considerable quantity of meat and other foods were examined during the year resulting in the following list of foods being condemned and destroyed as unfit for human consumption:-

Tomato Puree	...	...	...	...	1,373 lbs.
Sugar	...	...	...	...	116 lbs.
Meat	...	...	...	...	138 lbs.
Cheese	...	...	...	...	14 lbs.
Various tinned foods	..	...	...	...	419 tins.

The method of disposal of condemned food was by incineration carried out mainly at the Corporation tip.

There was no Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse in the district but one private slaughterhouse was used for the slaughter of pigs under licence for home consumption. Post mortem examinations were carried out on 23 pigs.

### Food Premises.

There are six premises registered in accordance with Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the manufacture of prepared and preserved foods and they have been periodically inspected throughout the year. Informal action was taken or advice given in respect of contraventions of the requirements of Section 13 of the Act. A good standard of cleanliness has been achieved and maintained.

Particular attention has been paid to food preparing premises and premises where food is offered for sale i.e. Cafes, Restaurants, Bakehouses, Butchers, Fried Fish and Food Shops. Approximately 270 visits were paid to these premises and where necessary advice was given and letters have been sent requesting works of repair or improvements in the general facilities in relation to Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. The Byelaws for securing the observance of sanitary and cleanly conditions and practices in connection with the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food and Sale of Food in the open air, made by the Council under Section 15 of the Act have given added powers to ensure that the public are offered a clean article of food.

The number of food premises in the area by type of business is as follows:-

Type of Business.	No.
Cafes, Restaurants	16
Greengrocers	11
Grocers	11
Confectionery, Cakes etc.	8
Public Houses	16
Fried Fish Shops	4
Wet Fish Shops	4
Bakehouses	3
General Stores	16
Butchers Shops	6
Sale of Ice-Cream	14
Dairies	2



Ice-Cream.

There are fourteen premises registered in accordance with Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the sale only of Ice-Cream. In all cases the Ice-Cream is sold as wrapped.

Twenty-eight samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for Bacteriological examination and the reports received showed the samples to be graded as under:-

Grade I	...	...	...	...	...	12
Grade II	...	...	...	...	...	14
Grade III	...	...	...	...	...	2

In the case of the two samples returned as Grade III the methods of storage and distribution were carefully examined and advice given to the retailers. At both premises it was ascertained that the conservators were not functioning as well as they should, but after being overhauled, the results of the repeat samples showed that the Ice-Cream had moved up to the top two grades.

FACTORIES ACT 1937 and 1948.

Part I of the Act.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	3	11	2	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	32	74	17	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	6 Housing Sites, 1 Site of Engineering Construction.	5	2	-
Total	42	142	21	-

FACTORIES ACT 1937 and 1948.

Part I of the Act (Cont'd)

2. Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found.	Remedied.	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of clearliness (S.1)	11	11	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	2	1	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	9	9	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	1	1	-	-	-
Total	24	22	-	-	-

Part VIII of the Act.

Outwork.

(Sections 110 and 111).

Nature of Work.	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110(1) (c).	Section 110.	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists.	No. of instances of work in un-whole-some premises.	Section 111.	
		No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council.			Notices served.	Prosecutions.
Wearing) Making etc. apparel)	1	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1	-	-	-	-	-

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

R. C. R. ROBINSON,

Sanitary Inspector.



APPENDIX.

Lincolne Sutton & Wood,  
Analytical and Consulting Chemists,  
Clarence House,  
6 Clarence Road,  
Norwich.

17th February, 1953.

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS OF WATER.

Sample received from: Inspector R. C. R. Robinson, Municipal Offices, Thetford.  
Marked: TBC/53/1C & 1B. Public Supply, tap in Corporation yard, 5.2.53  
Appearance when received: Bright and clear.  
Colour: Nil                      A.P.H.A. } Units.                      Odour: Nil  
   Hazen        )  
Reaction: Neutral    pH 7.2.                      Taste: Satisfactory.

RESULTS OF CHEMICAL ANALYSIS IN PARTS PER MILLION.

Ammoniacal nitrogen:	trace	Hardness as CaCO <sub>3</sub> :	
Albuminoid nitrogen:	0.02	Total:	246
Nitrate nitrogen:	9.0	Carbonate (temporary):	192
Nitrite nitrogen:	0.003	Non-carbonate (permanent):	54
Chlorine as chlorides:	22.0	Alkalinity as CaCO <sub>3</sub> :	192
Oxygen absorbed		Free carbon dioxide:	23.0
(4 hr. 27°C):	0.13	Total solids (at 180 C.):	331
		Metals in solution:	Nil

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS.

Number of colonies developing per ml. in 48 hours at 37°C: 1  
Presumptive coliform organisms - probable number per 100 ml: 2  
B. Coli: Type I absent.

OPINION.

This water is of very good organic quality and the chemical analysis shows no sign of serious pollution. Bacteriologically, the sample is satisfactory; although a few coliform organisms of non-faecal types were found to be present the number is too small to be significant. The water appears to be not quite as hard as it was in February, 1952, and iron on this occasion was absent altogether. In its appearance, odour and taste this water is very satisfactory and in our opinion it is very suitable for drinking and general purposes.

(signed) ERIC C. WOOD.

For LINCOLNE SUTTON & WOOD.

Lincolne Sutton & Wood,  
Analytical and Consulting Chemists,  
Clarence House,  
6 Clarence Road,  
Norwich.

11th August, 1953.

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS OF WATER

Sample received from: Inspector R. C. R. Robinson, Municipal Offices, Thetford.  
Marked: TBC/53/2C & 10B Public Supply, The Flat, King's House, King Street,  
Thetford.

Date Received: 31st July, 1953.      Appearance when received: Clear.  
Nature of Deposit: Nil.  
Colour: Nil.      Odour: Nil  
Reaction: Neutral      pH 6.8.      Taste: Satisfactory.

RESULTS OF CHEMICAL ANALYSIS IN PARTS PER MILLION.

Ammoniacal nitrogen:	Nil	Hardness as CaCO <sub>3</sub> :	
Albuminoid nitrogen:	0.01	Total:	260
Nitrate nitrogen:	7.5	Carbonate (temporary):	195
Nitrite nitrogen:	Nil	Non-carbonate (permanent):	65
Chlorine as chlorides:	24.0	Alkalinity as CaCO <sub>3</sub> :	195
Oxygen absorbed		Free Carbon dioxide:	19.0
(4 hr. 27°C):	Nil.	Total solids (at 180°C):	370
		Iron (total):	Nil
		Metals in solution:	Negligible trace of copper, others nil.

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS.

Number of colonies developing per ml. in 48 hours at 37° C: 0  
Presumptive coliform organisms - Probable Number per 100 ml: 0  
B. Coli Type 1 ("faecal"): Absent.

OPINION.

As compared with the previous analysis (our certificate No. 1013.D.) there are only minor variations in the analytical characteristics of this water. The organic quality is very good and there is no sign of pollution. The bacteriological sample is very satisfactory. The appearance, odour and taste of the water are all satisfactory and, in our opinion, it is well adapted to the purposes of a public supply.

(signed) ERIC C. WOOD.

For LINCOLNE SUTTON & WOOD.





